



# INFANTRY REGIMENT NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2005



Dear Spouses, Families, and Friends of  
2-8 IN Soldiers,

We are complete with our training and movement preparations here in Kuwait and are poised to move north. As this is a busy time in the theater, we are waiting for our ground and air assets to assist us.

Since departing Fort Hood, we have accomplished quite a lot. Our Soldiers on the ADVON were the workhorses of the brigade, assisting in downloading equipment from ships at the Kuwaiti ports.

The next step was moving all our vehicles and equipment containers to Camp Beuhring in Kuwait for training, maintenance, upload, and staging for onward movement. Our vehicles and containers were waiting for our main body when they arrived.

We then began to conduct our planned training. This was additional training to supplement all that we have been doing these last 17 months. Not all units have the luxury of arriving as well trained as 2d Brigade Combat Team, 4th ID. But we took advantage of the outstanding training facilities and resources here at Udari Range, just outside Camp Beuhring.

Soldiers fired their weapons, screened their tanks, zeroed Bradleys, prepared our communications, and participated in all kinds of situational training exercises, all based on recent lessons coming from Iraq. All the Soldiers did great; our training at Fort Hood and at the National Training Center has served us well.

From what I can tell, talking with Soldiers, the company commanders, and to Command Sergeant Major Cervantes, the battalion is in very good spirits, morale is high, and they are ready to get to it. Communications back home has been challenging though. Soldiers want to

call or email loved ones, but the numbers here at Camp Beuhring are working against us. Lines are long at the phone banks and the internet is clogged and shuts down a lot. Regular mail seems to be the most reliable means of communication. I generally prefer mail over phone or email for a couple reasons. I don't have to wait in line to write a letter, only to find out the internet is clogged. I don't have to wait in a long line to find out no one is home and I'm talking to voice mail again. There is never a long line at the mail box. Mail arriving is a pleasant surprise, versus a disappointment when there is nothing new. While an email or phone call is immediate, a letter can be saved and reread.

I do hope all the families and friends are doing well. The Soldiers are. We have each other. We are organized into groups, crews, squads and platoons. We naturally group together for mutual support. Seldom do you see a deployed Soldier alone; he or she is always with a buddy or group. Families have it tougher. Unless they are integrated into the Family Readiness Group, they can feel isolated, physically alone and with few sources of information, much of which is rumor. Please, group together like the Soldiers do. The FRG is a perfect forum to meet others in the same situation and get accurate information. Also, write to your Soldier. My guess is that each letter will get saved and read over and over.

Lastly, the Command Sergeant Major and I want to thank everyone for their support to their Soldier. We can do what we do best when our families and friends are behind us. Each week, we will identify a "hero" of the week - a Soldier who deserves some additional recognition for the great job all the Soldiers do every day. For each hero, CSM Cervantes and I will write a letter. We will also send an American flag, flown over our

forward operating base, to whomever the hero chooses. Some may send it to their spouse, their parents, the church, local tavern or high school; the choice is theirs. In any case, we hope the flags and accompanying certificates are displayed proudly. This is 2-8 IN's way of saying thanks for supporting our troops.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HOWARD  
LTC, IN  
Commanding

Spouses, families and friends of 2-8  
Infantry

The rear-detachment has been busy these past couple weeks. We helped push out the main body, cleared out and cleaned all the Battalion buildings, and have already begun moving the Battalion Headquarters.

By 16 Dec 05 the new location of the Battalion Headquarters will be located at Building 10005, off of Old Ironsides. I and SFC Patterson will be sharing an office. SSG Salveson, our Battalion command finance specialist will be co-located with the other Battalions CFSs. The staff duty number will remain the same; however, it will be the phone number for duty hours. For emergencies after duty hours (after 1800 and weekends) please call the Brigade staff duty which is also located in Building 10005. The Brigade staff duty number is 288-7509; it is manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is some meeting space for FRG meetings in 10005, so please feel free to call myself or SSG Wyant to reserve a space, when needed.

Currently SFC Patterson has been called upon to be a Causality Assistance Officer. Being a CAO is an extremely important job, and very time consuming. SFC Patterson is doing a great job and continues to represent the battalion. In SFC Patterson's absence, SSG Wyant will fill the position of my right hand man. I

am expecting SFC Patterson to be back to full time in January.

This month we have had lots of phone calls for TCS orders; we have made lots of copies and have them in the battalion headquarters. Please feel free to stop by during duty hours to pick up a set should you need them.

During this holiday season, many families will be traveling, please be safe and take your time. Also, I ask for families to leave a good point of contact with their FRG leader or please call and leave a point of contact with the rear-detachment. This is so that if we need to get hold of you for any reason we will be able to do so in a timely fashion.

Lastly, I just want to thank each and everyone for continuing to support each other and 2-8 Infantry.

Numbers for 2-8 Infantry

CPT Hills – 288-6296

Battalion Staff Duty – 288-6322

Brigade Staff Duty – 288-7509

These 3 numbers will stay the same for the deployment, regardless of the building move.

Sincerely,

CHARLES T. HILLS  
CPT, AR  
Commanding